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## The Vatican And Roosevelt

THE restrictions placed upon a visit of Colonel Roosevelt to the Vatican are all right looking upon the Vatican as a political kingdom. A great temporal power, as millions of its adherents hold him to be, the pope had a perfect right to name the conditions on which he would receive the ex-president, and it so ought to be considered by the world, Catholic and non-Catholic.

In the same connection the action of Colonel Roosevelt in refusing to accept those conditions was perfectly proper. They went to his personal manhood and his acts altogether are entitled to praise. All sovereigns claim a right to designate who may and who may not be their guests, they place whatever restrictions they care to upon a person who is to be received as a guest, and there is no fault to be found.

The only unpleasant feature is that the incident brought up a clash between churches, which is not worth while. Men choose what faith they please, or none at all; they adhere to what creed they please, or none at all; and at best it is only for a little race between the cradle and the grave that they strive, and that time is so short that it is useless to put a measure upon a man's beliefs before according him a courtesy. And the incongruity of it all can be seen, when we reflect upon the simple life of the Savior of the world, wherein for years he had been clothed at best in simple raiment and with coarse sandals, but who at the same time proclaimed himself the lord of heaven and of earth, and he put no conditions on anyone who wished to approach him. The authority for this has sprung up since Christ died.

In this case between Roosevelt and the pope there is this difference: Both teach peace to the world, both claim to be no respecter of persons, and yet there is a something that keeps them apart; something beyond diplomacy; something beyond political differences; while each is expressing a desire to see the other they are kept apart, and down deep it is apparent that on the part of the pope it is a religious kink. It is so great an antipathy to another church that the pope will not receive anyone who visits that other church. And that, we hold is entirely right as between man and man, but it did not come from the New Testament. And the performance of that Methodist pastor in Rome, ought to make every American blush with shame.

## Fighting Congressmen

WE have been reading of late the quarrels in Congress, and we doubt not that many people have been shocked, and have wished that the ancient stately courtesies which marked the meetings of the first congresses of the Republic, might be restored. But a close reading of those ancient proceedings show that human nature has not much changed. There were hot words, there were fierce arraignments, there were the same impeachments of motives, except that the language, as a rule, was more correctly spoken, for those old chaps when educated, were grounded in Latin, and that gave to their English a more chaste and comprehensive style than is often in these days heard. There were fist fights and club fights on the floor of the House of Representatives, as when Grosvenor belabored Colonel Lyon over the head with a hickory cane.

Speaking of this same Colonel Lyon, how many people in these days ever read the open

letter that he addressed to President John Adams? The letter was written the day the term of Mr. Adams as President closed. Here are a few extracts from it:

"I hope, sir, you are not past blushing for what a school boy would be ashamed of. The people of this country can never be divided from the government; you have brought yourself into hatred and contempt with them; but they never could be induced to view you and your executive officers as the government. No! the government they love and respect, and have accordingly put it into better hands." (It was the vote of Colonel Lyon that, after seven days' balloting, elected Jefferson President.)

"I beg pardon for the digression, but let me advise you to take water at the Federal City, and land at the nearest post of Quincy, (Quincy was Adams' home) the condolence of your old confederates, all along from this to Quincy, and the silent contempt of the multitude, will be too hard for you to bear, so soon after your fall, and may deprive you of the little reason you have left."

\* \* "Under your administration, sir, a system of appointments has been established by which implicit faith in your infallibility and a knack of discoloring the truth become the only qualification to office, or to entitle a person to a contract."

After charging him with having multiplied offices and filled them with favorites, and with dismissing capable men without giving a reason for the act, he wrote: "Your administration, sir, has been famous for contracts; there is not a doubt but in future the secret records of your navy office will be studied by your friend, William Pitt, and those he wishes to give favorite contracts to; there the oldest and wickedest British speculator, may learn new methods." The letter covers page after page filled with a sinister review of the administration, and closes with the hope that Mr. Adams may "become a true and sincere penitent and be forgiven all your manifold sins."

It will be remembered that the other day when the debate was hottest in Congress a member moved the previous question. The records give the wonderful speech of Judge Gaston against the previous question, in 1816. Here is a single extract:

"The liberty of speech is fenced round with a bulwark, which renders it secure from external injury—here is its citadel—its impregnable fortress. Yet here, even here, it is to be strangled by the bowstring of the previous question. In vain may its enemies assail it from without; but within, the mutes of despotism can murder it with impunity."

Thomas Jefferson affected to fear that a monarchy was intended, and John Adams could say bitter things, like this (in 1801): "A group of foreign liars encouraged by a few ambitious native gentlemen, have discomfited the talents, the virtues and the property of the country." And they used fight, too. Just after Andrew Jackson was elected to congress in 1796, he challenged his colleague, but it was settled. Senator James Gunn challenged Abraham Baldwin, of his own state, in 1796, but Baldwin laid the matter before the house, saying he was opposed to dueling, whereupon Gunn said: "Though the place in which Mr. Baldwin has thought proper to disclose this transaction is quite unexpected, it shall be to him an inviolable sanctuary."

In 1819 Senator A. C. Mason of Virginia was killed in a duel by Colonel John McCarty, his cousin. It was difficult to prevent a duel between John C. Calhoun of South Carolina and Thomas P. Grosvenor of New York. The duel between Clay and Randolph is famous. Thomas Benton and Andrew Jackson had a pistol and knife fight in Nashville. Benton a little later killed Mr. Lucas of Missouri in a duel. Senators Foote and Jeff Davis had a fight at the breakfast table. Crawford of Georgia killed his man in a duel and was a little later wounded by General Clark of Georgia. Turney and Bell of Tennessee had a fight on the floor of the house of representatives. Henry A. Wise and John Starly had a fight on the floor of the house. In 1838 Congressman William A. Greves of Kentucky killed Cilley of Maine in a duel. Cilley was a schoolmate and friend of Longfellow and Hawthorne. Old General Houston beat Representative William Stanbury with a big stick on Pennsylvania avenue.

This spirit ruled up to the opening of the civil war. The Brooks assault on Sumner was in 1856. Potter and Pryor fought in the late 50's and Terry killed Broderick in 1859. There were half a dozen fatal encounters in California about the same time, and all came of politics.

The present congress is less bloodthirsty than some former congresses were.

## Corporate Power

IN THE heart of New York City, the New York Central Railroad company has purchased seventeen full city blocks. It required seven years to accomplish that and cost \$50,000,000. Then the old structures were demolished, the subways were constructed one after the other until three of them were finished, and now the surface buildings have been commenced. They are to cost \$130,000,000 more, making the whole thing the most gigantic undertaking ever proposed by a single corporation. The depot building will cover four full blocks and will be twenty stories in height above ground—the largest office building in the world. All the buildings to cover those seventeen blocks are to harmonize, and all be on a scale more colossal and magnificent than was ever attempted before. The finished work will make all the ancient seven wonders of the world look like thirty cents by comparison. But the tall buildings are not to be built on a guess for the future. The architects figured that a railroad terminal that last year handled 20,216,000 passengers, made it the greatest traffic center in the world, and then figured, the ground space and subway space being appropriated, how much of the air-space above would be needed and made their plans accordingly. And, further, it is figured out that all these structures will be self-supporting. There will be the thunder of forty-five railroad tracks, all instinct with moving trains in and through the mighty labyrinth. A constant reminder that the present industrial age of steel, has awakened a diapason there which is never to cease. The above is but an outline. The Times of New York gives full illustrations and a graphic description of the whole titanic work. In the meantime Congress is discussing its power over corporations, and that fact provokes the question of where and how this official control over interests so gigantic is to be intelligently adjusted.

The average congressman could not in many days acquire any real conception of what this work in New York includes in its designs. And